

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

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TO USMISSION NATO

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CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035746

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

REFS: A) USNATO 575; B) USNATO 701;

1. WE AGREE THAT IS DRAFT FURNISHES A USEFUL BASIS FOR DRC
WORK AND SUPPORT THE GENERAL THRUST OF PROPOSED USNATO
PARTICIPATION IN DRAFTING, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS.

2. PRIORITIES. US VIEW OF PRIORITIES IN DEFENSE PLANNING
IS CONTAINED IN PARA 39BIS OF DECEMBER 3 DRAFT OF "US
CONTRIBUTION TO THE FORMULATION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE
EMBODYING A LONG-RANGE DEFENSE CONCEPT FOR NATO." WE
RECOGNIZE THAT THIS TYPE OF COVERAGE WAS NOT CONSIDERED IN
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FALL OR DECEMBER DISCUSSIONS AND HENCE MAY NOT BE READILY

ACCEPTABLE FOR MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE AS CURRENTLY ENVISAGED. WITH REGARD TO ALLOCATION OF PRIORITIES FOR FORCE PROPOSALS, WHILE US CONTINUES TO ATTACH MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO BASIC ISSUES AREAS OF FORCE IMPROVEMENT (IN ABSENCE OF FINAL DETERMINATION THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TO PERMIT ASSIGNMENT OF LOWER PRIORITY IN THESE FIELDS), WE DO NOT SEE IT AS APPROPRIATE TO ATTEMPT TO INSERT SPECIFIC PRIORITIES INTO THE DRAFT TEXT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE APPLICATION OF PRIORITIES TO FORCE PROPOSALS SHOULD FLOW FROM THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES AS THEY

REGARD THE SITUATION IN NATIONAL FORCES IN EACH REGION. THEIR VIEWS SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN THE FORTHCOMING FORCE PROPOSALS. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT FIRST PRIORITY IN FORCE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE ASSIGNED BY NMAS TO A VERY FEW ITEMS DRAWN FROM BASIC ISSUES, AD-70 AND THOSE FORCE IMPROVEMENTS WHICH WILL HELP THE MOST TO PERMIT EXISTING FORCES TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER IN INITIAL DEFENSE TASKS, TO INCLUDE RAPID REACTION CAPABILITIES. IN THE LATTER CATEGORY, WE HAVE IN MIND MEASURES SUCH AS THE IDENTIFICATION OF "QUICK FIXES" FOR IMPROVED INTEROPERABILITY IN THE SHORT TERM (AMMUNITION, COMMUNICATIONS, FUELS, CONNECTORS, ETC.). SOME OF THESE "QUICK FIXES" SHOULD EMERGE FROM SACEUR'S FLEXIBILITY STUDY AND BE REFLECTED IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE FORCE PROPOSALS. WE SEE INCREASED INTEROPERABILITY AS A CURRENT PRESSING NEED IN ORDER TO IMPROVE COMBAT CAPABILITY, NOT AS AN UNDERTAKING WHICH CAN BE TURNED COMPLETED INTO R & D CHANNELS FOR POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE MID-EIGHTIES. PARAGRAPH 45 SHOULD CARRY AN INVITATION FROM MINISTERS TO NMAS TO APPLY RIGOROUS PRIORITIES, ADAPTED TO REGIONAL REQUIREMENTS, IN DRAWING UP THEIR FORCE PROPOSALS. THE PROPOSALS OF THE MNCS SHOULD DRAW TOGETHER EXISTING PROGRAMS, ELIMINATE ANY REDUNDANCY, AND PROPOSE PRACTICAL MEASURES TO FILL GAPS ONLY WHEN SUCH MEASURES CAN BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN THE POTENTIAL RESOURCES OF NATO.

3. WARNING TIME. WE APPRECIATE MISSION'S CONCERN OVER IS TEXT. IN DRC DRAFTING OF TEXT ON WARNING, MISSION SHOULD KEEP IN MIND US OBJECTIVES (SEE STATE 277535) COVERING BOTH
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ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN THE DETERRENT PHASE (THE PERIOD PRIOR TO FINAL WARNING) AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AFTER FINAL WARNING OF WAR. PARAGRAPH 45 SHOULD INCLUDE A CALL BY MINISTERS TO COUNTRIES TO TAKE THE NECESSARY NATIONAL STEPS TO PERMIT EFFECTIVE RESPONSE OR COUNTERMEASURES DURING THE TWO PERIODS.

4. RESOURCES. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT ECONOMIC PRESSURES, WE

BELIEVE ALL FORCE PROPOSALS SHOULD BE LIMITED TO THOSE MEASURES WHICH CAN BE ACCOMMODATED WITHIN DEFENSE BUDGETS REFLECTING A THREE PERCENT REAL INCREASE PER YEAR (OR HIGHER, IF COUNTRIES. E.G. BELGIUM, WOULD AGREE).

5. REGIONAL ASPECTS. WE BELIEVE REGIONAL COORDINATION AND DISCUSSION BETWEEN MSC'S AND COUNTRIES SHOULD EXTEND TO HIGH-LEVEL REGIONAL REVIEW OF PLANS AND OPERATIONAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS OF FORCE PROPOSALS, AS SUGGESTED BY MISSION (PARA 2, REF B). NEED NOW IS TO PRESENT AND CONSIDER SUCH FORCE PROPOSALS PACKAGED TOGETHER AS REGIONAL PACKAGE.

6. IMPLEMENTATION. IN ADDITION TO POINTS INDICATED ABOVE, WE THINK PARA 45 SHOULD ALSO URGE COUNTRIES TO ENGAGE IN GREATER COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN SUPPORTING PROGRAMS (COMMON AND COOPERATIVE PLANS AND PROGRAMS, TO WHICH CRISIS MANAGEMENT CAN BE ADDED). FINALLY, PARA 45 SHOULD INVITE THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION TO EXAMINE THE ADEQUACY OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM FOR MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE IN ITS NEW EXPANDED COVERAGE. FYI: IN OUR VIEW, THIS REVIEW SHOULD LEAD TO ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANNUAL SPRING REVIEW OF SUPPORTING DEFENSE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE STATE OF ALLIANCE COOPERATION IN DEFENSE AFFAIRS, TO COMPLEMENT THE FALL REVIEW OF NATIONAL FORCE PLANS. END FYI.

7. REMAINDER OF MISSION COMMENTS APPEARS APPROPRIATE. WHILE WE DO NOT FIND PARA 11 OF IS DRAFT OFFENSIVE, THRUST OF YOUR COMMENTS (PARAS 4B AND 4C, REFTTEL B) ARE APPROPRIATE, THAT IS, DETERRENCE DEPENDS ON THE PROSPECT OF A STRONG DEFENSE AS WELL AS THE THREAT OF ESCALATION. INGERSOLL

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